

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A medical instrument comprising:
a tubular member;
an elongate member disposed at least partially inside said tubular member; and
a resilient loop having a substantially planar fully expanded configuration of a first size attached to one end of said elongate member, said loop including a bend on a side of said loop opposite said elongate member, said loop further including two loop sections each extending between said elongate member and said bend, at least one of said loop sections being formed with at least one notch or dent for enabling a use of said loop in at least one second size smaller than said first size upon a positioning of said loop by moving said elongate member and said tubular member relative to one another so that said notch or dent is disposed at a mouth opening of said tubular member.
2. (original) The instrument defined in claim 1 wherein each of said loop sections is formed with a respective notch or dent for enabling use of said loop in said second size upon a positioning of said loop relative to said tubular member so that said notches or dents are disposed at said mouth opening of said tubular member.
3. (original) The instrument defined in claim 2 wherein the notches or dents are disposed at substantially the same first distance from said one end of said elongate member and substantially the same second distance from said bend.

4. (original) The instrument defined in claim 3 wherein said first distance is approximately 30% to approximately 40% of the sum of said first distance and said second distance.

5. (original) The instrument defined in claim 4 wherein each of said notches or dents includes a pair of linear segments connected to one another by an arcuate bight, said segments being disposed at an angle of approximately 80° to approximately 120° relative to one another.

6. (original) The instrument defined in claim 5 wherein said bend is part of a nose projection of said loop, each of said loop sections including a respective bend disposed between said nose projection and the respective one of said notches or dents.

7. (original) The instrument defined in claim 6 wherein the respective bends in said loop sections are located at approximately the same distance from said nose projection so that said loop is provided with an enlarged distal end portion.

8. (original) The instrument defined in claim 7, further comprising a pouch slidably attached to said loop.

9. (original) The instrument defined in claim 8 wherein said loop is made of an electrically conductive material for cauterizing organic tissues of a patient.

10. (original) The instrument defined in claim 2 wherein the notch or dent of each one of said loop sections extends toward the other loop section.

11. (currently amended) The instrument defined in claim 2 wherein said loop in said planar configuration lies in a single plane, said notches or dents being located in said plane.

12. (original) The instrument defined in claim 2 wherein said loop has a relaxed configuration wherein said loop sections are spaced from one another by a loop width, each of said notches or dents having a width dimension measured in a direction from the respective loop section towards the other loop section, said width dimension being no larger than approximately fifteen percent of said loop width.

13. (original) The instrument defined in claim 2 wherein said notches or dents each have a V shape.

14. (original) The instrument defined in claim 1, further comprising a pouch slidably attached to said loop.

15. (currently amended) The instrument defined in claim [[14]] 1 wherein said loop is made of an electrically conductive material for cauterizing organic tissues of a patient.

16. (original) The instrument defined in claim 1 wherein said one of said loop sections is curved in a fully expanded configuration of said loop, the other of said loop sections being straight in said fully expanded configuration of said loop.

17. (original) The instrument defined in claim 1 wherein said notch or dent is one of a plurality of notches or dents formed along said one of said loop sections.

18. (original) The instrument defined in claim 1 wherein said notch or dent is located at a first distance from said one end of said elongate member and a second distance from said bend, said first distance being approximately 30% to approximately 40% of the sum of said first distance and said second distance.

19. (original) The instrument defined in claim 1 wherein said notch or dent includes a pair of linear segments connected to one another by an arcuate bight, said segments being disposed at an angle of approximately 80° to approximately 120° relative to one another.

20. (currently amended) The instrument defined in claim 1 wherein said bend is a first bend, said one of said loop sections including a second bend disposed between said first bend and said notch or dent, said second bend ~~being concave~~ defining a concavity facing towards the other of said loop sections.

21. (currently amended) The instrument defined in claim 1 wherein said loop in said planar configuration lies in a single plane, said notch or dent being located in said plane.

22. (original) The instrument defined in claim 1 wherein said loop has a relaxed configuration wherein said loop sections are spaced from one another by a loop width, said notch or dent having a width dimension measured in a direction from said one of said loop sections towards the other of said loop sections, said width dimension being no larger than approximately fifteen percent of said loop width.

23. (original) The instrument defined in claim 1 wherein said notch or dent has a V shape.

24. (original) The instrument defined in claim 1 further comprising a pouch attached to said loop, said loop defining a mouth opening of said pouch.

25-37. (canceled)

38. (currently amended) A medical method comprising:

providing an instrument including a tubular member, an elongate member disposed at least partially inside said tubular member, and a resilient loop with a planar configuration of a first size attached to one end of said elongate member, said loop including a bend on a side of said loop opposite said elongate member, said loop further including two loop sections each extending between said elongate member and said bend, at least one of said loop sections being formed with at least one respective ~~notch or dent~~ indentation or dimple extending inside said loop toward the other of said loop sections;

inserting an endoscope into a patient, said endoscope having a biopsy channel;

inserting said instrument through said biopsy channel, said loop being disposed in said tubular member during the inserting of said instrument;

after the inserting of said endoscope and the inserting of said instrument, pushing said elongate member to eject said loop at least partially from said tubular member at a distal end of said endoscope;

using the at least partially ejected loop to encircle a first desired tissue mass of a first size inside the patient, said loop being substantially entirely outside of said tubular member during the using of said loop; and

using the at least partially ejected loop to encircle a second desired tissue mass of a second size inside the patient, said second side being substantially smaller than said first size, said loop ~~notch or dent~~ indentation or dimple being initially disposed at a mouth opening of said tubular member during the using of said loop to encircle said second desired tissue mass.

39. (new) A medical instrument comprising:

a tubular member;

an elongate member disposed at least partially inside said tubular member; and

a resilient loop of a first size attached to one end of said elongate member, said loop including a bend on a side of said loop opposite said elongate member, said loop further including two loop sections each extending between said elongate member and said bend, at least one of said loop sections being formed with at least one notch or dent for enabling a use of said loop in at least one second size smaller than said first size upon a positioning of said loop by moving said elongate member and said tubular member relative to one another so that said notch or dent is disposed at a mouth opening of said tubular member,

the notch or dent in said one of said loop sections extending toward the other loop section.

40. (new) The instrument defined in claim 39 wherein each of said loop sections is formed with at least one respective notch or dent for enabling use of said loop in said second size upon a positioning of said loop relative to said tubular member so that said notches or dents are disposed at said mouth opening of said tubular member, each notch or dent in each of said loops sections extending toward the other loop section.

41. (new) The instrument defined in claim 40 wherein each said notch or dent includes a pair of linear segments connected to one another by an arcuate bight, said segments being disposed at an angle of approximately 80° to approximately 120° relative to one another.

42. (new) The instrument defined in claim 39 wherein said loop has a relaxed configuration wherein said loop sections are spaced from one another by a loop width, said notch or dent having a width dimension measured in a direction from said one of said loop sections towards the other loop section, said width dimension being no larger than approximately fifteen percent of said loop width.

43. (new) The instrument defined in claim 39 wherein said one of said loop sections is curved in a fully expanded configuration of said loop, the other of said loop sections being straight in said fully expanded configuration of said loop.

44. (new) The instrument defined in claim 39 wherein said notch or dent is one of a plurality of notches or dents formed along said one of said loop sections.

45. (new) The instrument defined in claim 39 wherein said loop lies in a single plane, said notch or dent being located in said plane.

46. (new) The instrument defined in claim 39 wherein said loop has a relaxed configuration wherein said loop sections are spaced from one another by a loop width, said notch or dent having a width dimension measured in a direction from said one of said loop sections towards the other of said loop sections, said width dimension being no larger than approximately fifteen percent of said loop width.

47. (new) A medical instrument comprising:
a tubular member;
an elongate member disposed at least partially inside said tubular member; and
a resilient loop of a first size attached to one end of said elongate member, said loop including a bend on a side of said loop opposite said elongate member, said loop further including two loop sections each extending between said elongate member and said bend, at least one of said loop sections being formed with at least one indentation or dimple for enabling a use of said loop in at least one second size smaller than said first size upon a positioning of said loop by moving said elongate member and said tubular member relative to one another so that said indentation or dimple is disposed at a mouth opening of said tubular member.

48. (new) The instrument defined in claim 47 wherein said indentation or dimple comprises at least three mutually proximate bends in said one of said loop sections, said mutually proximate bends being substantially closer to each other than to any other bend in said loop.

49. (new) The instrument defined in claim 47 wherein said indentation or dimple faces an inside of said loop.

50. (new) The instrument defined in claim 47 wherein said loop substantially lies in a single plane, said indentation or dimple being disposed in said plane.